

The Montage



Turlock-Modesto Branch

Volume 62 Issue 5

April 2021

May Meeting Goes Virtual

We hope you will join us via Zoom for the final membership meeting of this most interesting and challenging year.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in person (hopefully) for the Fall Membership Brunch but, yes, due to Covid restrictions, once again we had to cancel the Paeo Lavender Farm luncheon. Instead, **we will meet on Zoom on Saturday, May 1 at 10:00 a.m.** to conduct our annual election/installation of officers and approve our branch's proposed revised rules/bylaws. In addition, we will enjoy meeting a few of our high school scholarship recipients.

We hope to hear from you soon as **it is necessary to RSVP for this event. Reservations should be sent to our Zoom host, Dave Menshew at rennaman@sbcglobal.net.** Upon receipt of your email, Dave will send you the Zoom information that will allow you into the program.

Installation of Officers

Members of this year's Officer Nominating Committee were: Mary Allen, Wanda Bonnell and Linda Romero Soles.

The Committee presents for your consideration the following slate of officers for 2021-2022:

- President – Beverly Schlegel
- Co-VPs Program – Wanda Bonnell, Pat Portwood and Nedra Voorhees
- VP Membership – Wanda Bonnell
- VP AAUW Funds – Linda Romero Soles
- Recording Secretary – Nancy Turner
- Finance Officer – Susan Baldwin

Proposed revised Turlock/Modesto Bylaws and Standing Rules

Regular review and consideration of the Branch's Bylaws and Standing Rules is recommended as change is often necessary to meet AAUW National and State updates.

Susan Baldwin, Valerie Doherty and Beverly Schlegel conducted this year's review. The committee recommended several changes. Accompanying *The Montage*, you also received updated Bylaws and Standing Rules. Please be prepared by reading these documents. They must be approved by the membership present at our May 1 meeting.

Meet Our Scholarship Recipients!

We had many scholarship applicants from four different high schools: Turlock and Pitman High Schools in Turlock and Enochs and Modesto High Schools in Modesto. Branch members Wanda Bonnell, Sheila Younkin and Pat Portwood reviewed some excellent applications, established a point system and then scored each application individually. Criteria for scoring included each applicant's:

- GPA
- Declared major (our emphasis is on those seeking degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics)
- Extra-curricular activities
- Written essay
- Financial need

Your attendance at the meeting will guarantee your personal opportunity to meet these outstanding young women. We hope to see you then.

Virtual Tech Trek 2021

Our branch is pleased to sponsor ten girls for this year's Virtual Tech Trek event!

Three of eight girls nominated at Modesto's Prescott Junior High School and two of five candidates from Turlock Junior high completed our Tech Trek application process. These five seventh grade girls have been interviewed and selected to attend Virtual Tech Trek in Summer 2021. For the first time, parents were also interviewed this year; this new practice will be a part of the process in the future.

2020 Tech Trek girls will be attending camp this summer as all of Summer 2020's camps were cancelled. Five of six girls we selected last year will attend the Virtual Camp.

Each attendee selected one of three camp sessions that were offered from June 21 to 25, from July 12 to July 16 and from July 26 to 30. Each camp is centered on a morning-based project on robotics/engineering/coding class that meets daily and results in a personalized creation.

In the afternoon, girls will hear inspirational women speakers and participate in a variety of 90-minute hands-on science, technology, engineering and math workshops. Participants may return in the evening for activities with girls from other countries or for social activities.

We extend our thanks to teachers from Prescott who nominated students, Prescott Counselor Kella Clark who again served as coordinator at her school and Donna Creighton, STEM elective teacher/coordinator at Turlock Junior High School.

In addition, we appreciate Turlock coordinator Valerie Doherty and Modesto coordinator Beverly Schlegel and Branch members Fran Ewald, Pam Mayne, Pat Portwood, Marylou Hacker Rousseau, Margo Souza and Sheila Younkin who read applications, interviewed girls and parents and selected this year's participants.

Membership Dues Reminder

Please recall that membership dues for fiscal year 2021-2022 are due by June 30. In late March you received an email providing a unique link for you to submit your payment.

If you missed that email, you can still pay online by visiting www.aauw.org and logging in. Renewing online just takes a few minutes and is most helpful to our local branch for accounting purposes. Finance Officer Susan Baldwin will be glad to help you accomplish your renewal online. Contact her via email at tobald@aol.com or by phone at (209) 668-2483.

As always you may still pay by check made out to **AAUW Turlock/Modesto** and mailed to **AAUW, PO box 2373, Turlock 95381-2373.**

IMPORTANT – Members who have not renewed by July 31 will not be listed in our 2021-2022 Member Directory.



Volunteers Still Needed

A variety of volunteers are still needed for this year's virtual Tech Trek camps. We are invited to participate in a unique experience and increase our Tech Trek portfolio.

Adult camp coaches, near-peers (below age 18 coaches), instructors, and logistics coordinators – a wide variety of roles are needed.

You can even work for more than one camp!

Click here for applications:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2021-tech-trek-volunteers/>

Branch Named Gift Honorees

Each year AAUW branches are afforded a unique way to honor members who have done outstanding work in supporting programs and goals through the Named Gift Honoree program.

Our Branch recipients for 2021 are Valerie Doherty and Linda Romero Soles.

Though both members are involved in many of our projects, Valerie and Linda are being honored this year especially for their work on the Virtual Fall Scholarship Fundraiser. The two served as co-chairs of this pandemic-era event, figuring out a way, in short order, to substitute a by-mail fundraising appeal for our annual Wine Social fundraiser.

The effort was delightfully successful and the monies raised have made it possible for our Branch to fund six high school scholarships to young women from James Enochs High School, Modesto High School, Pitman High School and Turlock High School.

Congratulations and many thanks to Valerie and Linda!



AAUW-CA's Top 3 Bills

AAUW-CA identified its top three bills going before this legislative session. These bills address issues in our society that disproportionately affect girls, women, and people of color and were presented by members on AAUW-CA Lobby Day in March.

CA AB92 will temporarily waive, and then reduce, fees low-income families pay for childcare. State and federally funded programs help families with the cost of daycare, but families must still pay fees. This can make subsidized care unaffordable for many. This bill will waive family fees, using federal funding, through October 31, 2022. It will provide immediate relief for these low-income families, similar to what the Legislature did last year at the beginning of the pandemic.

After that, the bill will create an equitable sliding scale for reasonable family fees.

This is AAUW-CA's signature bill and we are a co-sponsor of this legislation.

CA SB62 Currently, garment workers are paid by the piece rate rather than being paid legal wages for time spent working. The piece rate often results in subminimum wage rates. This legislation eliminates piece rate in the garment industry and assures workers are paid for all their work.

SB373 will prohibit creditors/debt collectors from being able to collect from individuals who can show the debt was incurred through economic abuse. It primarily focuses on survivors of domestic abuse, and foster youth. Debts taken out in their names without their knowledge damage their credit and may force them into years of debt repayment.

AAUW National Election 2021

It's your AAUW, and your voice counts.

AAUW national voting is now open. For this vote, members are asked to elect representatives to the national AAUW Board of Directors, to consider changes to the bylaws that would open AAUW membership and also on changes to our Public Policy Priorities.

If you have an address listed with AAUW, please check your email folder (spam/junk also) for information needed for you to vote. You may vote on your computer, a pad or your phone. Members with no email listed have already been mailed ballots. If you wish to vote by mail, you must contact AAUW at connect@aauw.org or call 800.326.2289 to request a paper ballot by April 17. Paper ballots must be postmarked by Friday, April 30, 2021.

2021 Bylaws Amendment

AAUW has survived because of our ability to change. Our original mission going back 140 years was to “unite graduates” and support women in getting higher education at a time when women needed that. In 2009 we changed our purpose to “advancing equity for women and girls” as we recognized the inequities facing them in the world. Today, the challenges for women and girls are underscored by inequity and social injustice.

Now AAUW members can vote on proposed changes to the bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee **that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership**. Your vote could be impactful since passage of this bylaw amendment requires a 2/3 majority of votes received.

The listed rationale of the proposed Bylaws Amendment is as follows:

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.

More information and explanation are available from AAUW leadership here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

Public Policy Priorities

AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, adopted every two years by every-member vote, establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national staff. States and branches also use the Public Policy Priorities to inform their advocacy efforts on state and local issues.

The strength of the AAUW Public Policy Priorities is that they originate and end with the membership. Last fall (and the fall of all even numbered years) the AAUW Public Policy Committee (APPC) solicited feedback from members and staff to develop proposed Public Policy Priorities based on viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive contribution. Once the draft was developed, it was posted online for a comment period. The comment period expired and APPC finalized the current proposed Public Policy Priorities. Our AAUW Board of Directors approved them. AAUW members can now vote on these proposed changes.

To view the Public Policy Recommendations, click here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Voting ends on May 17.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

New Newsletter and Directory Staff

Sometimes it's just time to move on.

Right now, that is true for me and, effective with the publication of this month's newsletter, I am retiring from my position as editor of *The Montage* and from my work on the Turlock/Modesto Member Directory.

I have truly enjoyed working closely with so many of our Branch members. Being relatively new in the community, the challenges of these positions inspired me to learn as much as I could about AAUW (I was new to AAUW too) and required me to approach people I didn't know. Who couldn't use a little push now and then?

The good news is that our publications will go on without a hitch. Yes, two of our Branch members immediately stepped up to do the work.

Our 2021-2022 Directory will be created by Linda Romero Soles. Linda has done similar publications in the past and it is a blessing she is a member of our Branch, for this reason and so many others (see story on page 3).

And Bjorg Johannsdottir will edit *The Montage* next year. Bjorg possesses the skills and the experience with AAUW and with this Branch that assures a successful transition. And she has so much energy!

I am proud to have played a part in our group's communication and I assure you, I will still be a proud member of the Turlock/Modesto Branch.

Thank you to all who have made these several years a pleasure for me!

Diane Gray

AAUW California Annual Meeting

For the second year, our state's **Annual Meeting, scheduled for this Saturday, April 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, will be held via Zoom. However disappointing this is to those of us who might have enjoyed the trip and all the excitement of an in-person event, this Zoom opportunity means that we can attend, at no cost, and from home!

Attendees will learn what has been happening in California this year. A crowd favorite activity is enjoying hearing from the three Speech Trek finalists. And this year, for the first time, the new Equity Award will be presented to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson who represented Santa Barbara and most of Ventura counties.

The meeting is open to the public but reservations are required. **Click here for more information and to register:**

https://www.aauw-ca.org/event/23932/?instance_id=981

HERE'S ONLINE INFORMATION FOR YOU:

OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:	https://turlock-ca.aauw.net
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/TurlockModestoAAUW/
STATE WEBSITE:	https://www.aauw-ca.org
NATIONAL WEBSITE:	https://www.aauw.org
NATIONAL FACEBOOK:	https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National/
NATIONAL INSTAGRAM:	https://www.instagram.com/aauwnational/
PUBLIC POLICY:	https://www.aauw-ca.org/PUBLIC-POLICY/
AAUW NEWS & INSIGHTS:	https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/
AAUW TAKE ACTION:	https://www.aauw.org/act/